

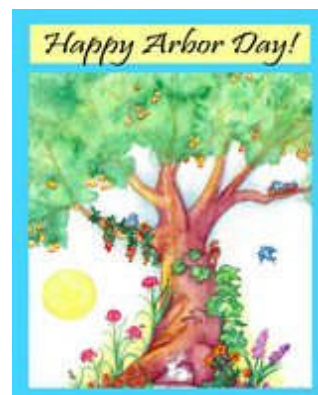
# A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

April 29th through May 24, 2016

The objectives of the New Meadows Garden Club shall be to foster knowledge of home gardening, decorative arrangements and an interest in civic projects.



April 29



Arbor Day will be held at the Steward School, 261 Perkins Row, Topsfield at 9:15 am. As our club does each year, a tree will be donated and planted on the school grounds. And as a special added attraction this year, with funds donated by our club, Barbara Shade has arranged to distribute milkweed seeds to every student at the school to support the campaign "Save Our Monarchs." You are invited to join in the celebration of this rite of spring with the children at the school who are in Kindergarten through 3rd grade.

**\*\*Arbor Day is a day dedicated annually to public tree planting. It is celebrated in all 50 of the United States and worldwide at different times during the year, depending on the locale's planting season. The first documented Arbor Day was celebrated in 1594 in Spain, and the first American celebration took place in Nebraska in 1872.**

April 30 to May 2

Art In Bloom will be held at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

May 1



Jane will create a design to coordinate with "Two Faiths" by American Artist, Lois Mailou Jones.

Our Artistic Meeting for this year will feature a bus trip to Art In Bloom at the Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. As many of you know, our club has participated in this very special event at the museum every year except for one since 1984. (Thank you so much to Barbara Shade for documenting our participation in this event in the history she so painstakingly put together for our club!) This year, Jane Cullinan will represent our club with a design, assisted by Rose Ann Waite. Our bus trip this year is very appropriate since it will give us the perfect opportunity to see Jane's creation, as well as all the others in this spectacular show. The bus will leave the parking lot at Emerson Center (and the Gould Barn) at 10 am sharp and return there at 3 pm. The cost for those who wish to take advantage of the bus trip rather than drive into the city is \$10.00, payable to Rose Ann Waite. There are a few seats left on the bus, which holds 20, and are yours on a first-come, first-serve basis. **\*\*So that you can make the most of your time at the museum, why not bring a snack with you to enjoy on the bus before our arrival and perhaps a bagged lunch and a drink for the trip home! Of course, having lunch at the museum is always an option too!**

May 10



The Northern District Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at the Andover Country Club from 9 AM to 2 PM. The keynote speaker will be Marty Jessel, who will speak on "Protecting Pollinators." Following lunch, Shirley Smith will speak about Ava Anderson quality products for the home and body, products made without harmful chemicals. During the awards ceremony, Barbara Shade will be presenting the Georgia E. McHugh Mentor Award to a second worthy recipient. This award was established by our club and presented for the first time last year. Several of our members will be attending and, if you would like to join us, a registration form follows.

...more news on the following page...

You are cordially invited to join us for

THE NORTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016  
At  
THE ANDOVER COUNTRY CLUB  
60 CANTERBURY STREET  
ANDOVER, MA 01810  
978-475-1263

Registration opens at 8:15 a.m.  
Meeting 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
\$40.00 per person

Includes: morning coffee, tea and assorted breads, lunch and programs.

Morning guest speaker: Marty Jessel, Protecting Pollinators. Marty was called a Honey Hero by Northshore Magazine for rescuing bees from death by saving one hive at a time. Hear what you can do to save honey bees, preserving local agriculture and saving the environment.

Afternoon guest speaker: Jen Kettel, Small Plants, Big Bang! Jen is a MA Certified Horticulturalist and an ISA Certified Arborist. She worked 10+ years as a horticulturalist at the Arnold Arboretum.

All Clubs should bring one plant for the Opportunity Drawing. New boutique vendors.

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Cut, clip and mail the below to confirm your attendance.

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R.S.V.P. no later than May 1, 2016 to:

LauriePeloquin, 12 Kenney Rd., Middleton, MA 01949  
Lpeloquin97@gmail.com

Checks made payable to GCFM, with a notation in the memo line stating Northern District

Name:

Club:

Email:

Telephone:

Lunch Choice: (Please choose one)

Chicken Calvados	Baked Haddock	Vegetarian Phyllo Triangle
Apple Stuffed,	Lemon Caper Sauce	with Red Pepper Coulis
Supreme Sauce		

May 14

The Boxford Village Garden Club will hold its annual Plant Sale, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm, 2 Elm Street, Boxford. If you are looking for locally grown plants, this is definitely the place to get them!

May 15

\*\*\*Attention all Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs! All annual Committee Reports must be submitted to Secretary Joline Yeaton by May 15th for inclusion in her Annual Report to be distributed at our Annual Banquet and Meeting in June.

May 17

Our next board meeting will be held at home of Sandy Whelan at 6:30 pm.

May 24

weather permitting



Our Conservation meeting this year will be an Essex River Cruise! Our Conservation Co-Chairs Gerrie Bunker and Linda Flynn have been busy planning a wonderful day for us. We will embark at 35 Dodge Street, Essex, and will be "cruising" from 10:30 am to 12 pm. The cost for members is \$20.00. For those interested, tables have also been reserved for our group following the cruise at the Village Restaurant, 55 Main Street, Essex.

Please contact Gerrie Bunker by May 20 if you would like to attend. And, do watch for more details and updates as we get closer to the date, especially if weather looks like it will be an issue!

## NOTES



► **Save the date!** Our club's Annual Meeting (banquet) and Installation of Officers will be held at the Danversport Yacht Club on June 7, 2016 at 6 pm. Please mark your calendars and look for details to follow very soon.



July 2015

May is almost here, and with that it is almost time to plant the **Veteran's Memorial Garden at the Pine Grove Cemetery**, one of our club's annual civic projects. Horticulture Chair, Jane Cullinan, has ordered the plants and will be in touch very soon with a date for planting the garden. Please get your gardening tools ready, and watch for Jane's "call to action." And, by the way, she will also need helpers to tend the garden during the summer, so please save some time to help out with that too!

Membership Chair, Janet Hanson has announced that our Membership Renewals will be in our Postal Service mailboxes the last week in April. \*\*Please note that, effective for next year, our club's board has increased our annual dues payments. Dues for Active Members will be \$35.00, and those for Associate Members will be \$52.50. Please return your renewals with your dues payments as soon as possible.

...more news on the following page...



*We are saddened to hear about the recent death of Honorary Member and past President of our club, Myra Hollis.  
Our sympathies go out to her family.*

***\*\*A reminder from Treasurer, Mary Leahy!** The club's fiscal year will close on June 30th and she is now looking for any receipts members may have, which are eligible for reimbursement by the club. She needs these very soon, so she can close her books at the end of our garden club year! So please get them to her as soon as possible.*

***The Annual Meeting of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at the Holiday Inn, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough. All members are welcome to attend. A registration form is available on the GCFM web site: <http://gcfm.org/Meetings/AnnualMeeting.aspx> The cost is \$55.00 prior to May 15th and \$75.00 after May 15th.***

*At our regular membership meeting in March 2016, the Nominating Committee was pleased to announce its proposed slate of officers for the 2016-2018 club years:*

<i>President</i>	<i>Shirley Holt</i>
<i>Co-Vice Presidents</i>	<i>Jane Cullinan and Sandy Whelan</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Joline Yeaton</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Mary Leahy</i>

*Since there were no nominations from the floor, the election of our officers as proposed will take place at our meeting on May 1, 2016, which also happens to be our bus trip to Art In Bloom at the MFA. Many thanks to our incoming Administrative Board for agreeing to serve as our new officers!*



*June is just around the corner, which means that Strawberry Festival time is almost here! As you know, this is our club's most important fundraiser of the year. This time around, we are excited to announce that Linda Mann and Janet Hanson have volunteered to coordinate our effort! And, they have so many ideas to tell you about, it's hard to know where to start! Linda and Janet came to our last board meeting armed with a bag-full of beautiful and clever garden and flower inspired crafts... quite different from our offerings in the past. (Honestly, I already have my eye on a few of these for myself!) Linda mentioned that there are loads of ideas for crafts on the web site "Pinterest" that would fit in nicely at our table, so she is encouraging those in a "crafty mood" to take a look and if something sparks your interest that is garden or flower related, and simple, jump right in and make a bunch to sell at our table. Oh, and save some time to help tend our booth...June 11th...make a note!*

*In addition, before the event, Artistic Co-Chair, Rose Ann, has volunteered to host two workshops at her home to add to the assortment of items we hope to sell:*

*May 25, 2016 11 am Terrariums—please bring any glass containers and tiny garden ornaments you might have around your home that could be used for this project. All other materials, including plants, will be provided.*

*June 1, 2016 11 am Herbs in a basket—please bring your own basket and a potted herb plant. All other materials will be provided.*

***\*\*Just a reminder that each member is expected to contribute in some way to this club effort!***

*...more on the next page...*



## ...Bits and pieces...

► *Plants are wonderful things aren't they?* They not only give us joy when they are in full bloom, or exhibit wondrous foliage, but clean our air and even provide remedies from many physical ailments we humans tangle with from time to time. The *Cameliia Sinensis* plant is a perfect example of the last. This is the plant from which black tea is made. Tea bags filled with black tea contain tannins, which have antiseptic properties and are useful for helping to stop bleeding. They also have anti-inflammatory and antiviral effects. *Here's how to use a tea bag as a natural remedy:* clean the wounded area, and then place a cool, moistened tea bag directly over burns, cuts, sores or ulcers. To be effective, keep the tea bag in place for at least an hour. You can use tape or gauze to keep it in place. Or as an alternative, you can brew a cup of strong tea, and when it has cooled, pour some tea on clean gauze and place it over the wound for about 20 minutes. Leaving it on longer may cause it to stick, so be sure to remove it when it is time. Repeat applications as necessary. If you wish to experiment with this, make sure you are using black tea, and not herbal tea!

*And, here's a story from my past on this very topic...when vacationing in the Adirondack Mountains, my family always found time to go out in the woods to pick raspberries. What fun that was...one was popped in the mouth, the next was for the container that would carry the berries to our cottage! Anyway, one day we were busy picking without a care in the world when my brother stepped on a bee's nest. Well, the bees were all over the poor guy, and he was stung from head to toe. What to do???? My parents, being very resourceful Europeans of the old school, had an idea. They had brought along home-brewed iced tea. In a flash they mixed the ice tea with dirt that they were able to gather, made mud, and covered my brother's body from head to toe. I do not exaggerate when I say that, while he was very dirty, not a bee sting was evident when he finally got his bath that night. The tannic acid in the tea had certainly done its job!*



Sean Ward shares his family history in the discovery of the Wardian Case. (terrarium)

*The Gould Barn  
March 22, 2016*



Horticulture Chair, Jane Cullinan poses with horticulture program presenter, Sean Ward.



Islands Chair, Claudette Poor and Nancy Emmons clear leaves from Prospect St. Island

*Island  
spring  
cleanup*



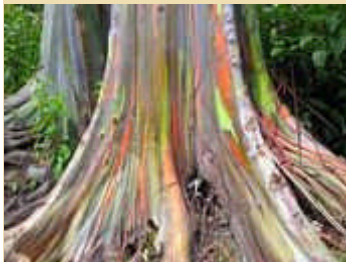
The crew at work!

...the Green Thumb Corner follows...

## Green Thumb Corner

### *Is this tree real or fake?*

On her recent vacation trip to Grenada, Rose Ann Waite made a wonderful discovery that she is sharing with us today. The answer to whether this tree is real or fake is that it is, in fact, real. The name of this tree is the *Eucalyptus deglaupita*, commonly referred to as Rainbow Eucalyptus or even more commonly, Rainbow Tree. It is native to Indonesia, New Guinea and the Philippines, but has been introduced to other places in the world. The name Rainbow Tree refers to the bark which can range in colors from blue to orange.



Here's the back story on what creates the beautiful bark on this tree...the multiple colors are produced when pieces of bark are shed throughout the year. As the newly exposed bark slowly ages, it changes from bright green to a darker green, then bluish to purplish, then pink-orange to maroon just before the bark falls off. Since this process is happening in different areas of the trunk and in different stages simultaneously, the colors are varied and almost constantly changing. So, the tree will never have the same color pattern twice, making it like a living work of art. How fortunate for Rose Ann and her husband to actually see this in person!

I was out and about a couple of days ago, and noticed that the local plant nurseries and box stores are beginning to fill their displays with all the plants they hope we, the consumers will buy to grace our containers and gardens. Indeed, it is a joyous time of year in these parts when we can finally kiss winter goodbye and welcome what we hope will be a lovely spring and summer of fun, games and gardening! So perhaps it is appropriate to talk about how to




to make the best plant choices. Many thanks to Jean Hampton for pointing me in the right direction for some very good advice to pass along to all of you! So here it goes!

First of all, during the winter months hopefully you've done some preparatory homework! Have you investigated the exposure where you want to put your new plants? What direction does your space face? West facing means hot sun in the afternoon; east facing provides morning sun; expect shade in northern facing spaces, and an even amount of sun all day in southern exposures. Your plant's requirements should match the lighting you are offering. And how about space? Is there enough when your plant grows, or maybe too much? If there's too much, you might want to purchase multiple plants. And it pays to know what kind of soil the new plant prefers...do you have it? Most times these requirements are listed on the plant's label or plant tag. Be sure to read it. If you are interested in more information, the internet is always there ready and waiting! What a wonderful world this is, right? One last word though...avoid impulse buying, especially at the large chain stores. Sometimes they try to entice you with a stunning plant sitting in a place where you can't avoid seeing it. Before you "cave" and buy it, make sure the plant will grow in our climate and in a place you can provide for it. Sorry to ruin your fun!

Okay, you've found a plant that is a good possibility...what's next? It's definitely not a good idea to hit and run while choosing plants! Don't buy the first one you see. Look at the plants on display carefully. Are some of the leaves yellow or wilted? This could be a sign that the plant wasn't taken care of properly. Are the roots growing through the drainage holes in the pot? This could indicate a plant that is pot-bound and unable to absorb water or nutrients properly. Do check the leaves top and bottom for spots or speckling. If these are present, maybe you are about to buy plant pests or some kind of disease as well!

...continued on the next page...





Are you trying to decide on a flowering plant? **The approach here is not to buy the plant at the nursery that is in full bloom and looking exquisite.** You know that don't you? If not, here's why...plants that are not in full bloom suffer less stress when they are planted in your garden. And what's better, you will get to enjoy the plant in your garden for the whole time that it is in full bloom and exquisite. Simple, right? This can also apply to the size of the plant you buy. **Smaller plants cost less, suffer less stress when planted in your container or garden, and initially grow more quickly than larger ones do.** That said, if you want "instant impact," the larger plant may be a better choice, regardless of cost! The choice is yours.

**Now, where to buy your plant?** There are so many choices...a local nursery, which grows its own stock or a big-box store or large chain nursery, which may have the cheapest prices? You probably already know this answer deep down. I know that many of us are attracted by the more affordable prices available in large chain stores, but **if you want to do this right, it is probably better that you stick to our local nurseries for your plant purchases.** These places are the best source for a wide variety of plants that are locally grown and are already adapted to our region. And, the staff in these stores are very knowledgeable about growing challenges in our area, if you have any questions. However, one thing going for the large chains is that, in many cases they offer some kind of warranty on their plants. Smaller, local nurseries often don't offer these warranties.

**And, now a very serious consideration when buying new plants for your containers and gardens.** We've all heard and been concerned about the disturbing news in recent years of the Colony Collapse Disorder in honeybees. In order to help, many are choosing to grow bee-friendly plants in their gardens. Perhaps you've been planning to do the same. I know that I have done so in recent years myself. But, there is a serious downside to all these good intentions that I learned about in doing the research for this article.

**The bad news here is that many plants that we all buy are treated with Neonicotinoid Pesticides.** Neonicotinoids are a relatively new type of insecticide, used in the last 20 years to control a variety of pests, especially sap-feeding insects, such as aphids and root-feeding grubs. Neonicotinoid Pesticides are systemic pesticides, which means that they are absorbed into the leaves, stem and other parts of the plant from the roots up. Because they are watered in and taken up by the plants' roots, they are less harmful for humans to use because there is no spray-drift or residue. Sounds good so far, but the problem with these pesticides is in the pollen. When plants are treated, the flower and the pollen contain the pesticide. For bees, it adversely affects their brains, causing them to struggle to learn and remember things. **Bees carry the pesticide home to their hives, where amounts can build up over time into a concentration that weakens or kills the hive outright.** Depending on the plant, these pesticides can linger within the plant, its pollen and seeds for a number of years. The harm unfortunately applies not only to bees, but to all pollinators, including butterflies.

**A study was done in 2014 on plants sold by Home Depot, Lowe's and Walmart garden centers in the US and Canada, and it was found that their plants contained high levels of Neonicotinoids, highly toxic to all pollinators. This is terrible because instead of helping the environment, we are unknowingly hurting it!**

**The good news here is that Home Depot and BJ's Wholesale Club are now both requiring their plant vendors to either stop using Neonicotinoid Pesticides or to label the plants if they do continue to use them, with eventual phase out of these products in the planning. Lowe's will also phase out Neonicotinoids in shelf products and plants by the spring of 2019, as suitable alternatives become available.**

**What to do? Before you buy, check plant labels for Neonicotinoid Pesticide use. If the answer as to whether they were used on the plant is not immediately obvious, ask the staff. (You might not be able to get the answer, but at least you now know to ask the question!) Alternative plant sources that are often safe are local native plant sales and local farmer's markets. But always ask before you buy if you are not sure! And, one last word, Neonicotinoids are also contained in common home and garden products, so check ingredients for such key words as Imidacloprid and Clothianidin and, if possible, avoid those as well in lieu of something safe for the pollinators we depend on.**

**Coming soon: Growing Orchids, All you wanted to know about Air Plants.**